

Good morning my name is Tim Dagg.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in favour of Rix's Creek South continuation of mining project SSD 6300.

I live in Muswellbrook, although I was born in Singleton July 1958 and raised on the family farm at Scott's Flat and later at Lemington. My Grandparents (my Mother's parents) also farmed just a couple of kilometres down the road from Dad's farm.

In those early years at my grandparent's farm, I have some great memories. One of which I particularly remember, was going to the top paddock with my Grandfather to pick up lumps of coal off the ground, load into the old ute and take back to the homestead to burn in the open fireplace, keeping everyone warm.

I will always remember what my Grandfather said to me back then, that was one day this barren land with all this coal will bring good fortune to the surrounding community and families.

That is certainly the case today as my family and many other families have had great opportunities from working at Rix's Creek Mine.

My Grandfather would be amazed with the rehabilitation work that has been done around the mine site. Even some of my friends driving past can not tell which is natural land or rehabilitated land. I think most people would be surprised, to see how well the land looks now after rehabilitation supporting cattle, even in a drought. My family has a rich history in farming around the Singleton area and now many of my family members work in the mining industry.

I have worked as an operator at Rix's Creek South Mine since April 1995 and I have seen many advances in the mining industry over those years. The monitoring of mining conditions such as dust, noise and blasting has improved in some of the most outstanding ways compared to 24 years ago when I first started at Rix's Creek South Mine and a far cry from what it was like when I first started in the mining industry 36 years ago.

At Rix's Creek, the mine management has set up many policies for production workers to adhere by in all conditions of mining. I can tell you the production workers will monitor all conditions by themselves. For example, if it gets dusty they will stop work until the problem is solved with water carts. Noise limits are monitored all night. Production workers will stop work immediately if noise gets close to our limits regardless if they are on a normal or overtime shift. Once the noise level goes down, we never start all the machinery back up at the same time, but we will slowly bring our machines back online one at a time to ensure we satisfy noise conditions.

Rix's Creek South mine is a family base and Australian owned mine which is unique. The company employs many members of the same families to work at the mine, also employing many women throughout the company in roles such as production workers, engineering, office staff, senior management, board of directors and in fact all the way to ownership. The company has many contracting companies, working around the mine site and these companies employ many women as well.

I particularly like how the company helps out with donations to charities around the Singleton area and surrounding communities, with a large focus of support to the Cancer Council. Most recently the company has contributed to the appeal which is helping out the family involved in the tragic Singleton house fire.

I would also like to mention how the workers themselves at Rix's Creek South Mine, are most generous when it comes to donating funds to worthy causes around the district. For example in the past 24 years myself and many others workers have donated on a weekly basis direct from our pay packet to the P.C.Y.C. , Youth off the Street and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. Rix's Creek workers have also raised \$246,000.00 for the Cancer Council through golf days held over many years. The Bloomfield Group employees have given in excess of \$400,000.00 to The Westpac Helicopter Service since 2002 and have been donating for years before that but records were not kept before 2002. Rix's Creek alone have just passed \$100,000.00 in donations to youth off the streets.

Therefore, I believe the continuation of the Rix's Creek South Mine has many benefits for the Singleton community, local contacting companies and business owners around the district of Singleton.

I thank you for allowing me to give you my opinion on this matter.